

## COUNTRY DATA: Chile : Information from the CIA World Factbook

### INTRODUCTION



Prior to the arrival of the Spanish in the 16th century, the Inca ruled northern Chile while the indigenous Mapuche inhabited central and southern Chile. Although Chile declared its independence in 1810, decisive victory over the Spanish was not achieved until 1818. In the War of the Pacific (1879-83), Chile defeated Peru and Bolivia and won its present northern regions. It was not until the 1880s that the Mapuche Indians were completely subjugated. After a series of elected governments, the three-year-old Marxist government of Salvador ALLENDE was overthrown in 1973 by a military coup led by Augusto PINOCHET, who ruled until a freely elected president was installed in 1990. Sound economic policies, maintained consistently since the 1980s, have contributed to steady growth, reduced poverty rates by over half, and have helped secure the country's commitment to democratic and representative government. Chile has increasingly assumed regional and international leadership roles befitting its status as a stable, democratic nation.

### GEOGRAPHY

<b>Location</b>	Southern South America, bordering the South Pacific Ocean, between Argentina and Peru
<b>Area</b>	total: 756,102 sq km
<b>Climate</b>	temperate; desert in north; Mediterranean in central region; cool and damp in south
<b>Natural Resources</b>	copper, timber, iron ore, nitrates, precious metals, molybdenum, hydropower
<b>Total Renewable Water Resources</b>	922 cu km (2000)
<b>Freshwater Withdrawal</b>	total: 12.55 cu km/yr (11%/25%/64%) per capita: 770 cu m/yr (2000)
<b>Natural Hazards</b>	severe earthquakes; active volcanism; tsunamis
<b>Environmental Issues</b>	widespread deforestation and mining threaten natural resources; air pollution from industrial and vehicle emissions; water pollution from raw sewage

### PEOPLE

<b>Population</b>	16,888,760 (July 2011 est.)
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<b>Ethnic Groups</b>	white and white-Amerindian 95.4%, Mapuche 4%, other indigenous groups 0.6% (2002 census)
<b>Religions</b>	Roman Catholic 70%, Evangelical 15.1%, Jehovah's Witness 1.1%, other Christian 1%, other 4.6%, none 8.3% (2002 census)
<b>Languages</b>	Spanish (official), Mapudungun, German, English
<b>Literacy Rate</b>	definition: age 15 and over can read and write total population: 95.7% male: 95.8% female: 95.6% (2002 census)
<b>Major Infectious Diseases</b>	N/A
<b>GOVERNMENT</b>	
<b>Type</b>	republic
<b>Independence</b>	18 September 1810 (from Spain)
<b>Constitution</b>	11 September 1980, effective 11 March 1981; amended 1989, 1991, 1997, 1999, 2000, 2003, and 2005
<b>Legal System</b>	based on Code of 1857 derived from Spanish law and subsequent codes influenced by French and Austrian law; judicial review of legislative acts in the Supreme Court; has not accepted compulsory ICJ jurisdiction; note - in June 2005, Chile completed overhaul of its criminal justice system to a US-style adversarial system
<b>ECONOMY</b>	
<b>Agricultural Products</b>	grapes, apples, pears, onions, wheat, corn, oats, peaches, garlic, asparagus, beans; beef, poultry, wool; fish; timber
<b>Industries</b>	copper, lithium, other minerals, foodstuffs, fish processing, iron and steel, wood and wood products, transport equipment, cement, textiles
<b>Import commodities</b>	petroleum and petroleum products, chemicals, electrical and telecommunications equipment, industrial machinery, vehicles, natural gas
<b>Import Partners</b>	US 21.77%, China 12.76%, Argentina 9.55%, Brazil 6.46%, South Korea 5.35% (2009)
<b>Export Commodities</b>	copper, fruit, fish products, paper and pulp, chemicals, wine
<b>Export Partners</b>	China 16.46%, US 11.31%, Japan 9.06%, South Korea 6.49%, Brazil 4.64%, Mexico 4.09% (2009)
<b>Per Capita GDP</b>	\$15,500 (2010 est.)

Population below poverty line	11.5% (2009)
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\*CITATIONS: All information included above is extracted from the CIA World Factbook except where noted.